

India, the Philippine Islands, and Java, hoping to add still further to the valuable importations of exotic bees. He took Cyprian and Holy-Land bees along, in our improved hives, and left some at each place of landing. He has been received with marked favor by the several governmental authorities.

At Ceylon, Mr. Benton secured the diminutive *Apis indica*. The bodies of the workers are only 1 cm. long; the thorax is brown, the shield or crescent between the wings is large and yellow; the abdomen, beneath, is yellow, and above is beautifully banded throughout its entire length with brown and yellow. These bees are very little inclined to sting, and when they do sting the effect is slight, owing to the very small size of the sting.

The queens are very large compared with the workers, are of a dark copper color, and seem astonishingly prolific. I have received some of the comb from Mr. Benton. The small cells, less than one-half of a cm. in diameter, give a dainty appearance to the comb, which is very interesting.

These bees, from their small size, great beauty, amiable tempers, and the possibility that they can work on flowers inaccessible to our larger bees, will be received with no little eagerness by American apiarists.

At the time of Mr. Benton's last letter he had not yet succeeded in procuring the large *Apis dorsata*, which was the great attraction which led to this laborious and expensive journey. But he had learned where they were to be found on the island of Ceylon and in Java. These bees suspend their combs vertically to the limbs of trees, often for a distance of a metre or more. Great stories are told of the large amount of honey which these bees store, and now for the first time we shall not only get reliable information of their habits and value, but, if the undertaking is practicable, we shall have them imported to our own American apiaries. Surely it is something to be proud of, that it was left for American enterprise to first introduce these long coveted species into the civilized countries of the world.

### A FRAGRANT BUTTERFLY.

BY MARY ESTHER MURTFELDT, KIRKWOOD, MO.

In a paper on Brazilian butterflies, read before the London Entomological Society, 5 June 1878, by Dr. Fritz Müller, great prominence is given to the odors of the male butterflies, which the author considers as an especial sexual attraction.

Some years before the publication of this paper, in spreading fresh males of *Callidryas eubule*, I had been struck with the delicate violet-like odor which was emitted, and which was retained, to some extent, for several days. I have

repeatedly observed the same quality since and always in the males. The females are not in the smallest degree fragrant. This is the only species, common with us, which, so far as I am aware, possesses this attribute, and as it belongs to a genus mainly represented in South American species, it may be simply the inheritance of a characteristic of use to its congeners in the forests of Brazil and not of any especial service to it in its present habitat.